

ADDITION TO PUBLIC BUILDING AT DUBUQUE, IOWA.

JANUARY 25, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MERCER, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9073.]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to which was referred House bill 9073, has had the same under consideration, and respectfully reports in favor of its passage.

This bill proposes an addition to the present custom-house at Dubuque, Iowa. The present building was commenced in 1857. The population in 1850 was 3,108 by the census for that year. By the census of 1890 the population was 30,311, and from data received from the city of Dubuque the population is now about 42,000. The original plan of the present custom-house is entirely inadequate for the present population and business of Dubuque. That city is a large manufacturing city, with an active business population, with a port of entry, and is still growing rapidly. Every available room is occupied, and several rooms for United States officials are, and have been for years, rented outside of the custom-house in order to accommodate the public service of the United States.

The Treasury Department has sent an inspector to investigate and report upon the condition of this custom-house, and his report is hereto attached and made a part of this report.

The amount asked for in the bill is the amount estimated for by the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, and the bill was drawn in his office upon the request of the Representative of the district in which this public building is located.

It is clear to the committee that this appropriation is very much needed in the interest of economy and the public service.

DUBUQUE, IOWA, *October 14, 1895.*

SIR: According to instructions received while in your office at Washington to come to this city and investigate the report concerning the lack of room in the United States post-office and custom-house here, I arrived here on Wednesday.

I examined the building very carefully, visiting all the different offices, and find the report of the building being inadequate in size for the proper transaction of public business to be correct.

The building itself is a stone structure, three stories in height, 59 feet 9 inches by 84 feet 10 inches, outside measurement.

Present building is situated on a plat of ground bounded by Ninth street on the east, Locust street on the south, a public alley 14 feet wide on the north, and a plat of ground belonging to the Government, measuring 113 feet 4 inches by 59 feet 5 inches, on the west.

The present building faces on the west the private alley, 22 feet wide, as shown

by the diagram in the duplicate report hereby furnished. On the south the building faces Locust street; on the east, which is the front of the building, is bounded by Ninth street, and on the north is bounded by the public alley before mentioned.

The first floor of the building is taken up and occupied by the post-office department, with the exception of a small room 18 feet square, which is occupied by the collector of customs, and is entered from the side door on Locust street. One-half of the available space in the basement is also utilized by the post-office department, most of the pouching being done in this section.

In the second story are accommodated the marshal and his deputy, the clerk of the court and his clerk and stenographer, the internal-revenue department; also the office of the district attorney and his assistant.

In the third story are situated the United States court room, the judge's room, the grand jury rooms, the petit jury rooms, and witness rooms, besides the public lobby and stairway.

I found that the building is crowded to its utmost, and each department, with the exception of the post-office, to have space available enough for the transaction of public business.

The officers of inspector of boilers and hulls, also the weather bureau, also the chief and clerks of the Railway Mail Service, have to hire their accommodations in other buildings, at an expense of about \$1,800 per year, there being no room available for their accommodation in the present building.

It is evident that this building should be enlarged. The cramped and hampered condition of the post-office department certainly does not facilitate the prompt and speedy receiving and dispatching of mails, and would seem to add more or less confusion to the force of letter carriers and clerks.

This building was commenced in its erection in 1857, when the population of the city was scarcely one-fourth what it is at present. It was finished and occupied in 1866, work having been suspended during the period of the rebellion and resumed after the close of the war. The business of the office has steadily increased from that time until now, and I herewith furnish a report prepared by the kindness of the postmaster, showing the increase of business from 1889 to the first half of the present year:

Money-order business for year ending June 30, 1889.

DR.	
6,508 domestic money orders issued.....	\$59, 129. 24
Fees	510. 45
3,215 postal notes issued	5, 934. 14
Fees	96. 74
565 international money orders issued	7, 223. 40
Fees	93. 80
Total	72, 987. 77
Cr.	
18,118 domestic money orders paid.....	208, 326. 37
11,729 postal notes paid	22, 790. 31
217 international money orders paid.....	5, 939. 84
89 money orders and postal notes prepaid.....	553. 65
Total	237, 610. 17

This office was not a money-order depository at this time, and the deficiency of debit side was supplied by New York drafts to the amount of \$163,000.

Money-order business for year ending June 30, 1895.

DR.	
8,494 domestic money orders issued.....	\$61, 485. 17
Fees	500. 96
433 international money orders issued.....	4, 960. 61
Fees	68. 40
4,098 certificates of deposit issued.....	386, 459. 38
Total	453, 474. 52
Cr.	
24,486 domestic money orders paid.....	219, 981. 08
241 international money orders paid.....	5, 680. 23
108 postal notes paid	212. 33
Deposited at Chicago	228, 378. 00
Total	454, 251. 61

Increase of business at the post-office for the year ending June 30, 1895, as compared with the year ending June 30, 1889.

Sales of stamps and envelopes year ending June 30—	
1895	\$63,271.62
1889	47,939.46
Increase	15,332.16
Number of letter carriers employed—	
1895	17
1889	13
Increase	4
Number of street letter boxes—	
1895	116
1889	72
Increase	44
Amount received for rent of boxes—	
1895	\$490.00
1889	396.75
Increase	93.25
Number of boxes rented—	
1895	220
1889	172
Increase	48

There are 419 pouches and tie backs dispatched and received every twenty-four hours, the largest number of any city in the State of Iowa, and an increase of one-third since 1889.

There are 9 railroad post-offices running into Dubuque.

There are 46 outgoing and incoming mails every twenty-four hours.

The population of Dubuque has increased from 30,311 in 1890 to 40,633 in 1895.

The above statement will show that the increase in business in this office has been steady and uniform for the last six years. The prospects in Dubuque, I find, are very flattering for business men, and from the amount of building I have observed in progress, I anticipate that there is no so-called "boom" in the town, but the growth is steady and one that is warranted by the actual increase in population and business enterprise.

Many suggestions were made to me by the citizens and the custodian whereby the crowded condition of the public building might be changed so that each public office might have adequate room, and also the offices hiring quarters outside the building might be accommodated. It was suggested by many people that an extra story be added to the present building, and utilize the second floor exclusively for the post-office department. This opinion seemed to be universal, but I could not recommend it for the reasons that, first, it would be isolating the post-office business to a certain extent by placing the department on two different floors of the building, and also increasing the height of the building, which is already very tall in comparison with its other proportions, thereby destroying its architectural features.

I have prepared a drawing showing my idea of an extension, which I recommend as a method of relieving the overcrowded condition of the building as far as the post-office is concerned, and also providing quarters for three offices which now have to be rented, viz, the Railway Mail Service, the Weather Bureau, and the inspector of boilers and hulls.

This plan contemplates a one-story addition, taking up 22 feet west of the old building, which is now occupied by the private alley, and an addition of two stories in height, 40 feet by the width of the present building. A ground plan and an elevation of the Locust street front I inclose as part of this report.

The one-story addition occupying the space now used as an alley would be covered by a skylight nearly the entire area of the roof of this portion. On the north side, toward the alley, would be a mailing platform, situated close to the center of the building, and would give ample facilities for distributing the box and general-delivery mail, and also that delivered by carriers.

The west wall of the building would be removed and the upper stories supported by two wrought-iron Z-bar columns and two 24-inch plate girders. The east wall

of the new two-story portion would be supported in like manner, over the first story, but by lighter construction.

The Locust street front of the one-story portion would be filled by five semi-circular windows as shown, which would add somewhat to the architectural effect of the building.

The two-story portion of the new structure would be devoted on the first floor to an entrance hall for access to the second story, an office for the collector of customs, a private office for the postmaster, and an entrance to the basement, besides the space left, which will be devoted to an addition to the present post-office workroom.

The second story of the new addition would be divided into three or four offices to accommodate the officers who now have to hire quarters outside the building; also a corridor for the proper approach to the several offices.

A basement should be constructed under the entire new addition. A space of 18 feet 7 inches would be left between the west side of the addition and the brick wall which surrounds the Government property as indicated.

The present Government building is constructed of Nauvoo stone. This is a very hard limestone of a light ashen color, and is extremely handsome.

The work on the old building is done in a very superior way, and, as indicated in the sketch, the first story is constructed in coursed rustic design, with a draft margin of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches around each stone, and the center portion of each stone finished in picked work.

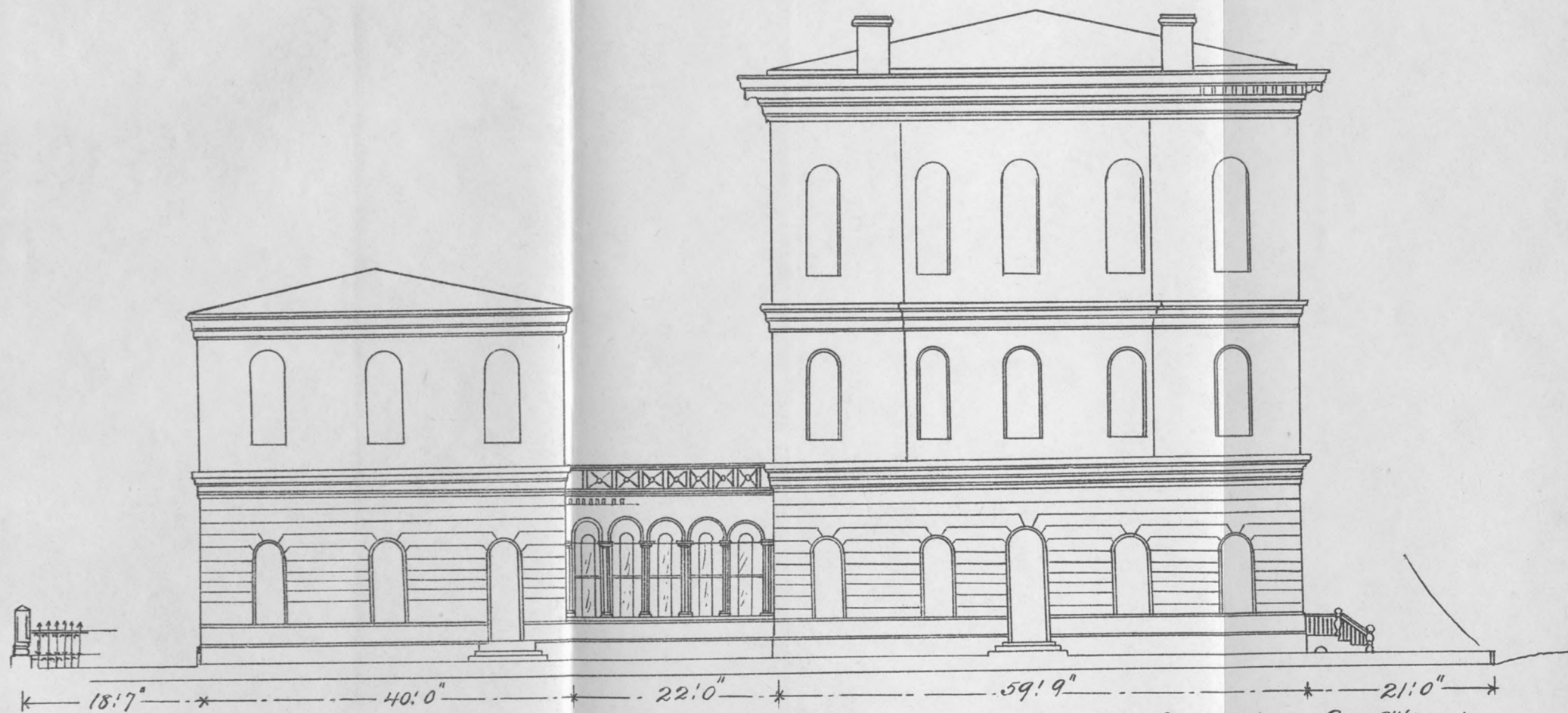
The additional stories of the building are built in what is termed coursed ashlar, with the surfaces of the stone picked similar to the central portions of the stone in first story. The joints in all the stonework do not exceed three-sixteenths of 1 inch in thickness, and the work is done in a very superior way throughout.

It would seem necessary that the addition to the present building should be constructed in a similar way to the present building, and I recommend that an addition, as shown in the sketches furnished, be authorized to be built and executed accordingly.

I am, very respectfully,

JOHN J. CLARKE,
Inspector Public Buildings.

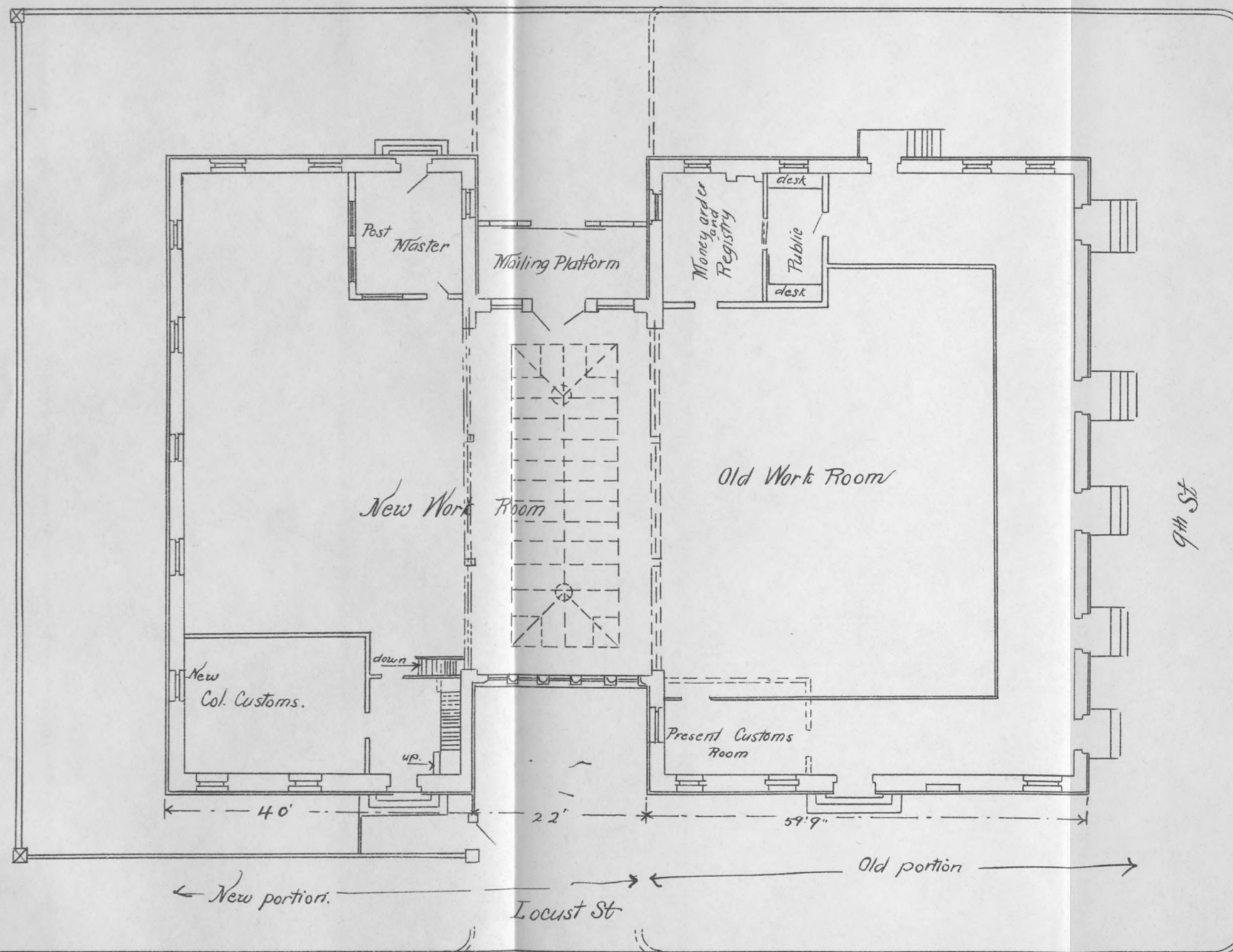
Hon. WILLIAM MARTIN AIKEN,
Supervising Architect of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.



Locust St. Elevation

*Suggestion for Addition to Gov. Bldg at
Dubuque, Ia. New portion one & two story portion.*

John J. Clarke, Inspector Pub. Bldg.

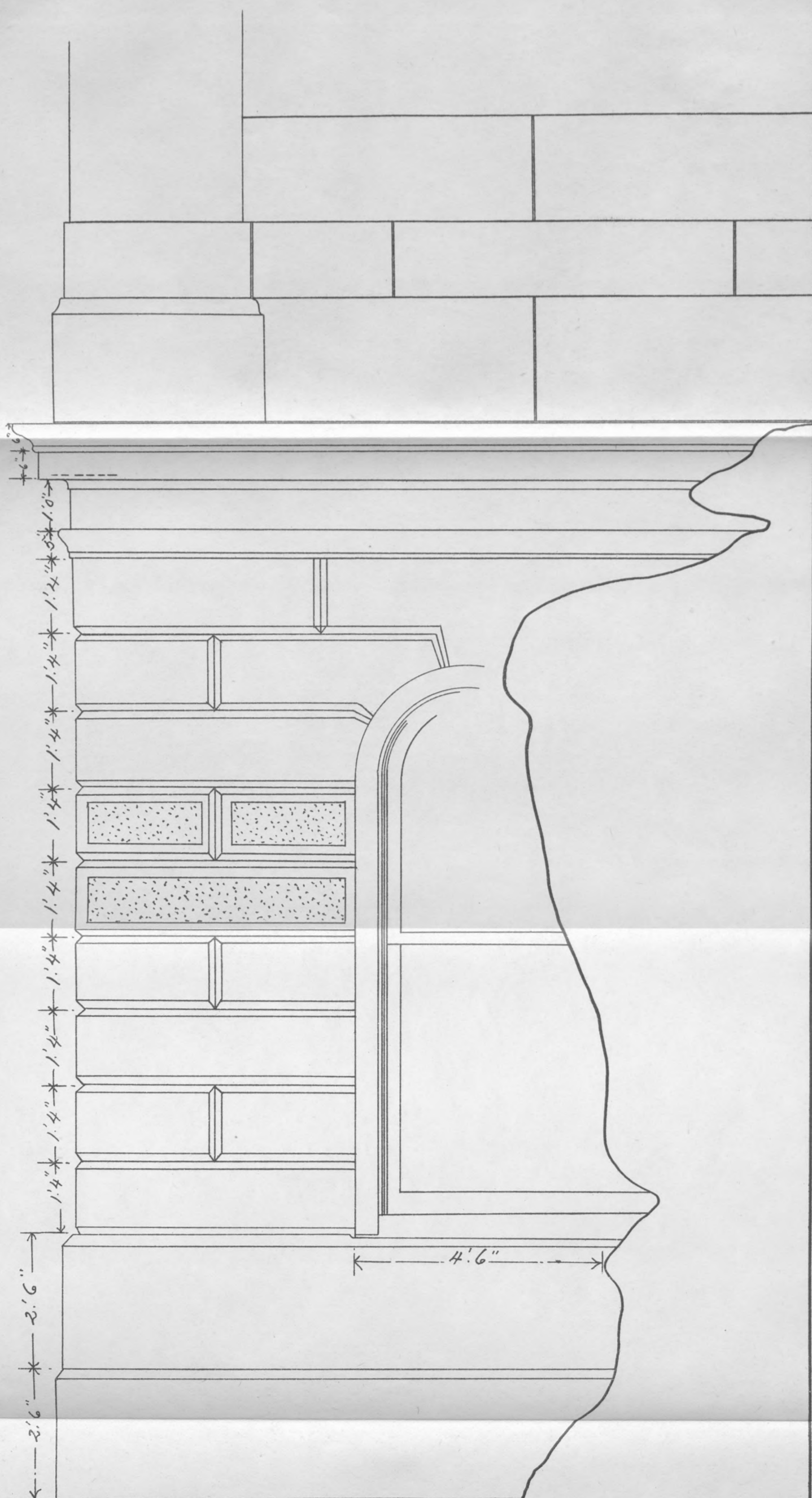


Plan suggesting enlargement
of Gov. Bldg. at Dubuque, Ia.

Scale $\frac{1}{16}$ of inch to one foot

John J. Clarke

Ins. Pub. Bld'gs.



Scale drawing of 1st Story and part of
Second Story of Dubuque, Ia. Gov.

Bldg. showing finish of Stone.

John F. Clarke
Ins. Pub. Bldgs.